

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/811,093	CLENDENNEN ET AL.	
	Examiner Ashwin Mehta	Art Unit 1638	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the BPAI decision of 23 November 2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 5, 7, 9-12, 15, and 19-23.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1, 5, 7, 9-12, 15, and 19-23 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicants have isolated the promoter from a gene arbitrarily named "MEL7" from cantaloupe fruit. A plant expression vector comprising the MEL7 promoter (bases 156-1708 of SEQ ID NO: 42), operably linked to the GUS coding sequence, was introduced into ripe melon fruit and fruit tissues of apples, pears, and tomato by particle bombardment. The MEL7 promoter directed GUS expression in the fruit tissues in this transient expression assay. Another plant expression vector was constructed in which the MEL7 promoter was operably linked to the coding sequence for S-adenosylmethionine hydrolase (SAMase), and introduced into melon cotyledon tissue explants via Agrobacterium. Transgenic tissues were regenerated into transgenic plants. The MEL7 promoter directed expression of SAMase in fruit of transgenic cantaloupe plants. Fruit of transgenic plants showed lower ethylene production versus fruit of non-transgenic control plants (page 35, lines 2-14, Table 9).

The prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42. Claims 1, 7, 9-12, 15, and 19-23 were finally rejected in the Office action mailed January 30, 2004 under 35 U.S.C. 112, 1st paragraph, for lack of sufficient written description and scope of enablement, and claim 5 was objected to for depending from a rejected base claim. The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences reversed the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 1st paragraph in the decision mailed November 23, 2005. As claim 5 no longer depends from a rejected claim, the objection to it is moot, and all pending claims are allowable.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Ashwin Mehta, whose telephone number is 571-272-0803. The Examiner can normally be reached from 8:00 A.M to 5:30 P.M. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Anne Marie Grunberg, can be reached at 571-272-0975. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571-273-8300. Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.

December 22, 2005



Ashwin D. Mehta, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1638